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Subject: First Move: House Talks Climate Change • Budget Battling • Alaska Offshore Drilling's Future

**Bloomberg
Environment**

What you need to know to start your day.

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House Talks Climate Change • Budget Battling • Alaska Offshore Drilling's Future



By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

Two House committees take up climate change today, the latest sign of Democrats' desire to make it a bread-and-butter issue.

- The Energy and Commerce Committee listens to how state and local leaders are responding on climate in the wake of President Trump's intent to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement. Among those testifying is Washington Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee, who has made climate the centerpiece of his 2020 presidential bid. The committee also plans to mark up a bill on Wednesday that would try to block President Trump from withdrawing from the Paris climate deal.
- The Foreign Affairs Committee delves into how climate change threatens national security with retired Vice Adm. Dennis McGinn, the former assistant Secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment, and Sherri Goodman, the former deputy undersecretary of defense for environmental security.

BUDGET BATTLING

Energy Secretary Rick Perry and EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler separately defend their agencies' fiscal 2020 budget requests.

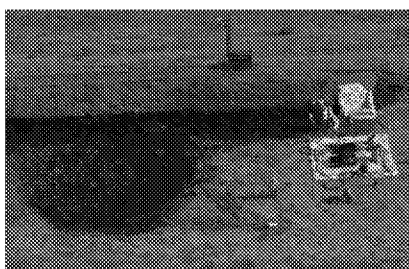
- Perry goes before the Senate energy panel, where he'll come under intense questioning from Democrats about the administration's desire to slash the department's energy efficiency and renewable energy office budget by 70 percent.
- Wheeler appears before House Appropriations' Interior-EPA spending panel. Its chairwoman, Minnesota Democratic Rep. Betty McCollum, has called the proposed 31 percent cut "egregious."

ALASKA OFFSHORE DRILLING'S FUTURE

The Supreme Court may be the Trump administration's best hope to overturn a lower-court decision shutting down oil and gas drilling off the Alaskan coast, Stephen Lee writes.

- The high court's five conservative justices have shown skepticism about agency claims of authority where Congress hasn't clearly delegated it—the core issue in the Alaska case.
- Conservatives have been ramping up attacks on long-standing agency deference doctrines as part of a broader plan to give the power to interpret laws to Congress and the courts.

WHAT ELSE WE'RE WATCHING



Workers clean up a site where an oil pipeline burst in 2015 near Goleta, Calif.
Photographer: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

- **Pipeline Safety:** The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee examines pipeline safety. **Witnesses** include Howard "Skip" R. Elliott, administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and Andrew Black, president and CEO of the Association of Oil Pipe Lines.

- **Offshore Drilling:** The House Natural Resources' energy and mineral resources panel looks at **protecting coastal communities** from offshore drilling.
- **Liu Effects:** Jessie Liu's **withdrawal** to be the Justice Department's No.3 after she was criticized over her past role with the National Association of Women Lawyers could have a chilling effect on female and minority lawyers joining identity-based groups, Bloomberg Law writes.
- **Ethylene Oxide:** More than half of all medical supplies **are disinfected with ethylene oxide**, a colorless, odorless gas that the EPA has labeled a carcinogen. The chemical is facing new scrutiny after elevated ethylene oxide emissions from Sterigenics U.S. LLC's Willowbrook, Ill., facility prompted outrage from local residents and the state's senators, Bloomberg Law writes.
- **Amazon Shareholders:** Amazon.com Inc. has attracted the **most shareholder proposals** of any U.S. company this year, on topics including food waste, facial recognition technology, the environmental effects of warehouses, and its headquarters' impact on local housing, Bloomberg Law writes.

INSIGHTS

Who Needs More Supreme Court Justices? Democrats and Republicans Do
FDR's 1937 plan to pack the U.S. Supreme Court with extra justices is being floated by at least one Democratic presidential candidate. But Georgetown Law Professor Adam J. Levitin says dramatically expanding the court would benefit both parties and make the court the politically neutral branch of government it was intended to be.

DAILY Rundown

Top Stories

EPA, Environmentalists Grapple Over Air Toxics Policy in Court

Federal judges appeared skeptical of April 1 arguments by environmentalists and California that a recently revised EPA air toxics policy is legally binding on power plants, refineries, and other industrial sources.

Former Michigan Governor Snyder Reinstated in Flint Class Action

Some class action claims against former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder brought by residents of Flint, Mich., over the 2014 water contamination crisis may go forward, the Eastern District of Michigan ruled April 1.

High Manganese Levels Prompt No-Drink Order for S.D. Capital

South Dakota environmental officials are advising the 14,000 residents of the capital city of Pierre not to drink tap water as a result of high levels of manganese in the city's water supply.

Energy

Duke Energy Ordered to Remove Coal Ash From Last N.C. Sites

Duke Energy has been ordered to excavate coal ash from the last of its unlined storage pits in North Carolina.

Avangrid Hydropower Plan Gets Preliminary Nod in Maine

An Avangrid Inc. plan to deliver hydroelectric energy from Quebec to Massachusetts through Maine moved closer to winning regulatory approval in Maine after energy advisers there recommended that it move ahead.

Environment

Rockefeller Announces End of Major Climate Resilience Initiative

The Rockefeller Foundation will shut down its 100 Resilient Cities program, the largest privately funded climate-adaptation initiative in the U.S., the foundation announced.

Tesla Settles with EPA Over Hazardous Waste Violations at Plant

The EPA has settled with Tesla over federal hazardous waste violations at the company's auto manufacturing plant in Fremont, Calif.

Ohio Attorney General Dives Into Lake Erie Bill of Rights Suit

Ohio's attorney general is intervening in a federal lawsuit hoping to pull the plug on a Toledo law that gives residents the ability to sue farmers for polluting Lake Erie.

International

EU Auditors Criticize Bloc's Battery Strategy

The European Union is over-concentrating its public support for energy storage in lithium-ion batteries when money could be better spent on more advanced batteries, an area in which European companies might gain a competitive edge, the EU's investigative audit agency said.

Chile Targets AES Corp. Coal Plant in Coastal Air Cleanup

Chile has imposed stricter limits on the emission of pollutants by three major industrial plants, including a subsidiary of U.S. power firm AES Corp., in a bid to improve air quality in a notorious environmental hot spot.

Brazilian Tin Waste Dam Failure Spurs Water Quality Monitoring

Brazilian state environmental authorities are monitoring downstream water quality after torrential rains caused the rupture of an Amazon area dam storing tin-mining waste.

TODAY'S EVENTS

- **8 a.m. • Congress** • BakerHostetler holds annual legislative seminar featuring House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Missouri GOP Sen. Roy Blunt, Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Ed Markey, and Oregon GOP Rep. Greg Walden.
- **10 a.m. • NRC** • Senate environment panel holds oversight hearing on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- **10 a.m. • Investing/Environment** • Senate banking panel discusses the application of environmental, social, and governance principles in investing and the role of asset managers, proxy advisers, and other intermediaries.
- **10 a.m. • Pipeline Safety** • House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee examines pipeline safety.
- **10 a.m. • Western Water Infrastructure** • House Natural Resources' water subcommittee delves into the state of West's water infrastructure and innovation.
- **10 a.m. • NASA Budget** • House science panel scrutinizes NASA's fiscal 2020 budget request.
- **2 p.m. • Public Lands** • House Natural Resources' public lands panel holds hearing on four bills.

AROUND THE WEB

- Firing up more U.S. production and purchasing of electric vehicles would produce an "unprecedented set of benefits," the Progressive Policy Institute says in a study out today.
- Texas' unregulated dams are increasingly failing, jeopardizing people and property.
- New York Democratic Rep. Paul Tonko, who heads the House Energy and Commerce panel on climate change, discusses his views in a Columbia University podcast.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Who would have thought that this fire would have caused this ripple effect that is impacting potentially the global market?”

—Texas state Sen. Carol Alvarado, [discussing](#) how last month’s four-day Intercontinental Terminal Co. blaze has backed up tankers and other ships in Galveston Bay and the Gulf because of runoff from ITC’s facility that polluted the waterway.

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